

Message Text

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UNCLAS STUTTGART 0357

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SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG

REF: STUTTGART 0301

1. CONVENED BECAUSE OF GRUMBLING WITHIN CDU RANKS OVER MINISTER-PRESIDENT FILBINGER'S PROPOSED REORGANIZATION OF HIS GOVERNMENT, THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING ON FEB. 16 - 17 OF THE CDU FRAKTION OF THE LANDTAG SAW THE PARTY RALLY ROUND, AS HAD BEEN EXPECTED, TO FILBINGER'S POSITION. THE PARTY'S DIRTY LINEN GOT A TWO HOUR WASHING DURING THE CLOSED DOOR DISCUSSION AND CAME OUT LILY-WHITE; LOTHER SPAETH, MINISTER-DESIGNATE OF THE INTERIOR AND STILL FRAKTION LEADER, ANNOUNCED AFTERWARDS THAT ALL DIFFERENCES HAD BEEN OVERCOME AND THE FRAKTION SUPPORTED UNANIMOUSLY AND WITHOUT
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RESERVATION THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS FOR REORGANIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT. (IT WAS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT AT THE MEETING ERWIN TEUFEL HAD BEEN ELECTED FRAKTION LEADER IN THE LANDTAG TO SUCCEED SPAETH. TEUFEL HAS BEEN STATE SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, BUT WILL NOW RESIGN THAT POST. THUS THERE IS ANOTHER POSITION THAT FILBINGER CAN NOW FILL.)

2. IN THE LANDTAG ON FEBRUARY 22 THE CDU VOTED AS A BLOC IN FAVOR OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REORGANIZATION PROPOSALS AND THE FDP FRAKTION ALSO VOTED WITH THE MAJORITY. THAT LEFT ONLY EPPLER, HEAD OF THE SPD FRAKTION, TO SPEAK OUT IN THE DEBATE AGAINST THE RE-ORGANIZATION PROPOSALS. EPPLER CONTENDED THAT FILBINGER HAD BEEN FORCED INTO REORGANIZING HIS CABINET BECAUSE OF THE STAMMHEIM SCANDAL. EPPLER OBJECTED TO DIVISION OF THE CULTURE MINISTRY INTO TWO SEPARATE MINISTRIES AS A NEEDLESS AND COSTLY REFORM, THOUGH THEN SPURNING LOGIC HE ENDORSED ENGLER'S APPOINTMENT AS MINISTER OF SCIENCE WHILE ATTACKING HERZOG'S APPOINTMENT TO THE OTHER NEW MINISTRY. HE ALSO QUESTIONED THE NECESSITY OF ELEVATING STATE SECRETARY MAYER-VORFLEDER OF FILBINGER'S STAFF TO CABINET RANK.

3. SOME PRESS COMMENTATORS, PERHAPS ALL THE MORE HUNGRY FOR MATERIAL TO REPORT SINCE THE DEBATE WAS BY THEIR OWN ADMISSION NOT A VERY INSPIRING ONE, WERE PRONE TO READ MUCH SIGNIFICANCE INTO THE FACT THAT THE FDP HAD VOTED ALONG WITH THE CDU. DOES THIS PORTEND, THEY WONDERED, THE BEGINNING OF CLOSER FDP-CDU COOPERATION IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG, I.E., ALONG THE LINES OF WHAT HAD BEEN ADVOCATED RECENTLY BY FDP SPOKESMAN BANGEMANN (STUTTGART 0263)? HOWEVER, AS POINTED OUT REFTEL THE FDP HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO SUPPORT THE CABINET REORGANIZATION FOR REASONS OF ITS OWN, AND DURING THE LANDTAG DEBATE FILBINGER'S OWN ROLE STILL CAME IN FOR SOME CRITICISM FROM THE FDP FOR THE MANNER IN WHICH HE HAD CONCEIVED AND CARRIED OFF THE CABINET REFORM.
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4. A BETTER READING OF FDP POLICY AIMS IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG WILL COME ON APRIL 22, WHEN A SPECIAL PARTY CONVENTION WILL BE HELD TO ELECT A SUCCESSOR TO BANGEMANN AS LAND CHAIRMAN AS WELL AS OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PARTY'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. BANGEMANN ANNOUNCED AT THE END OF LAST WEEK THAT HE IS RESIGNING THE CHAIRMAN POST.MILLER

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